West Lake Update

October 5, 2015

EPA Approves Work Plan for Additional Characterization of RIM in Areas 1 and 2 of OU1

EPA has approved the Potentially Responsible Parties' (PRPs) Revised Work Plan for Additional Characterization of Radiologically-Impacted Material (RIM) in Areas 1 and 2 of the West Lake Landfill Site. The work plan describes the scope of work and the procedures to be used by the PRPs' contractors during additional investigation of RIM in Areas 1 and 2 of Operable Unit (OU) 1.

Contractors under EPA oversight will drill, log, and sample a total of 25 borings, including seven in Area 1 and 18 in Area 2. The locations of the additional soil borings have been selected to provide further definition of the distribution of RIM within the landfill and to support RIM volume calculations. The results of this additional investigation will augment the currently ongoing Phase 1D work, and will ultimately support a remedy selection for OU 1 by EPA. Defining the scope and location of RIM is critical to accurately evaluate all remedial alternatives, including full and partial excavation options.

As a part of the investigation, limited vegetation clearing will take place, using the same procedures previously used during the Phase 1 and Phase 1D investigations. Contractors under EPA oversight will clear vegetation using machinery that will cut near, but above, the ground surface without disturbing the surface or the vegetation's roots. The vegetation will also be moistened with water prior to grinding, if necessary, to minimize dust generation.

A percussion Geoprobe method will be used to drill borings and collect core samples at each location. The percussion Geoprobe is a 4" sampling machine that advances a continuous plastic liner within the waste mass using an outer steel casing, using percussion vibration to advance the casing. Between each boring, contractors will scan and decontaminate the casings.

The Geoprobe will advance the casing through the entire profile of waste, and through approximately five feet of native soil underneath, collecting continuous soil and waste samples. The purpose of drilling into the native soil underneath is to ensure that all potential RIM at depth is identified. Once the bottom of the waste has been verified, a 2" PVC pipe will be installed in the borehole to conduct the downhole gamma scan. If the Geoprobe cannot fully penetrate the waste mass at any location, then rotary auger drilling or sonic core will be used to complete the drilling.

Upon completion of the sample collection, the samples will be shipped to a laboratory for analysis. The laboratory will dry and grind the sample to promote homogeneity and analyze for Radium, Thorium, Uranium, Actinium-227, Potassium-40, Protactinium-231 and Lead-210. The laboratory will also scan for Target Analyte trace metals.

EPA will subject the laboratory analytical reports and data to validation under the Multi-Agency Radiation Laboratory Analytical Protocol (MARLAP) to ensure scientific integrity of the results.

In addition to the Geoprobe drilling and sampling described above, contractors will collect samples from various locations and depth intervals for additional testing to obtain site-specific data for use in groundwater fate and transport study.

EPA expects the PRPs' contractors to mobilize and site preparations to take place in October. EPA expects drilling to conclude in December, with laboratory analysis, data verification, and preparation of the final report to follow. EPA expects the final report to be available by late Spring 2016. The report will be posted to EPA Region 7's West Lake Landfill website when complete.

The work plan for the additional characterization work in Areas 1 and 2 is available on EPA's West Lake Landfill website: www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/

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